# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1330
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
SURPLUS FOODGRAINS
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU;RATTAN LAL KATARIA

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the country is facing the problem of surplus foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is obligatory for India to import specified quantity of foodgrains even there are surplus foodgrains in the country;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to rectify the situation?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION ( SHRI S CHAUHAN )

(a) & (b) : The Stock position of wheat and rice in the Central pool as on 1st February,2001 as compared to the buffer norms is as under: Figs. In lakh tonnes

| Commodity | Stock as on 1.2.2001 | Buffer norms as on 1.1.2001 | Excess |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wheat | 241.18 | 84 | 157.18 |
| Rice | 223.96 | 84 | 139.96 |

(c) & (d) : No, sir.

(e) The following steps have been taken by the Government to rectify the situation:

(i) Open sale of wheat at reduced prices has been started from 11.07.2000;

(ii) open sale of rice has been started from 4.9.2000;

(iii) The Central Issue prices of wheat and rice were revised down-wards on 25.7.2000 .

(iv) The Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of rice and wheat for APL families were fixed at 100%of the economic cost or the open market sale price decided by the FCI from time to time,whichever is lower. The open market rates, being less than the economic cost, the State Governments could avail of this offer and make food grains available to APL population at the reduced rates;

(v) The allocation of food grains for BPL families @ 20 kg per family per month is now made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000 instead of projected population of 1995.

(vi) Foodgrains at BPL rates are available for allotmentto State Governments @ 5 kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/backward class students/homes forNari Niketans etc. sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Food grains can now be allocated under the Annapoorna scheme to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old-age pension from the State Governments.

(vii) Food grains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for all welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

(viii) Food grains at the rates applicable for BPL families will be allottedto the State Governments for undertaking `Food-for-Work` programmes in the States, as also for the Greening India Campaign.

(ix) Foodgrains will be allocated at BPL rates for development Schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme.

(x) FCI has been permitted to offer wheat for export at a price not lower than the CIP for BPL category which, at present, is Rs.4150 per M.T.